

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 09/989,373
Sughrue Ref: Q67325

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and have added new dependent claims 3-5.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ogawa et al. (US 5,115,108) and newly cited Ichikawa (US 4,401,864).

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite that the rubber contact portions each include a thin wall portion, an outer portion, and an inner portion, and that the thin wall portion produces a click feeling by a resilient force. Applicants respectfully submit that these claim changes are not new matter at least because they are supported in the original specification at page 13, line 1- page 14, line 7.

With respect to amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because Ogawa does not teach or suggest all of the claim recitations. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ogawa of a click switch having rubber contact portions with a “thin wall portion” that provides the clicking feeling. Although the Examiner appears to assert that the rubber buckling portions 19a, 19b, 20a, 20b correspond to the claimed rubber contact portions, these rubber buckling portions do not provide a clicking feeling. Instead, it is merely the lower rubber buckling portion 81 that provides this feeling.

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Furthermore, if the Examiner were to consider a modified buckling portion 81 having a conductive contact piece (Ogawa at 7:67-8:5) as corresponding to the claimed “inner portion,” then the buckling portion 81 cannot be also considered the claimed “thin wall portion” that produces a clicking feeling.

As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 2 at least because of its dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 3-5 in order to provide additional claim coverage directed to the structures of the rubber contact portion and overstroke means. These new claims are fully supported in the original specification at least by at page 13, line 1-page 14, line 7.

Applicants submit that these new claims should be allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 1 and because the combination of Ogawa and Ichikawa does not teach or suggest their features. For example, Ogawa merely teaches hemispherical rubber bucking portions 19a, 19b, 20a, 20b, and does not suggest the use of a thin wall portion that includes a generally conical shape. In addition, Ogawa does not teach or suggest an overstroke means in which a “cylindrical outer portion is capable of being displaced downwardly around the cylindrical inner portion.”

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

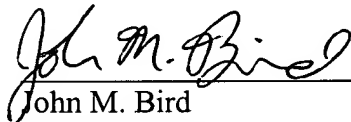
Respectfully submitted,

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